



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 468

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 5684

House of Representatives, April 25, 2001

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or
4 dentistry until [he] such person has obtained a license as provided in
5 section 20-199. A person shall be construed to practice veterinary
6 medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter,
7 [who] if such person (1) holds himself or herself out as being able to
8 diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any
9 animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, or
10 [who] (2) either offers or undertakes, by any means or methods, to
11 diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any
12 animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition.
13 The euthanizing of animals in accordance with applicable state and
14 federal drug laws by the Connecticut Humane Society and the floating

15 of teeth in horses by persons experienced in that practice shall not be
16 deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine. [For the purposes of
17 this section] As used in this subsection, "floating of teeth" means using
18 hand-held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a
19 horse's upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and
20 cheeks and to improve chewing food, but does not include treating
21 decay, tumors or extracting teeth.

22 (b) (1) As used in this subsection, "veterinary technician" means any
23 person who: (A) Prior to January 1, 2003, has passed a veterinary
24 technician examination prescribed by the Department of Public Health;
25 or (B) on or after January 1, 2003, has successfully completed a
26 veterinary technology program accredited by the American Veterinary
27 Medical Association and has passed a veterinary technician
28 examination prescribed by the Department of Public Health.

29 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, any
30 licensed veterinarian may delegate to a veterinary technician such
31 veterinary procedures as the licensed veterinarian deems advisable,
32 provided: (A) Such delegated procedures shall be performed under the
33 direction and supervision of such licensed veterinarian and only when
34 such licensed veterinarian is present on the premises where such
35 delegated procedures are being conducted; and (B) such licensed
36 veterinarian shall be responsible for all such delegated procedures and
37 for making all medical judgments regarding any animal that is the
38 subject of such delegated procedures.

39 (3) No veterinary technician may engage in any: (A) Diagnosis or
40 prognosis; (B) prescription of treatments, drugs, medications or
41 appliances; or (C) surgery.

42 (4) Prior to delegating any veterinary procedures to a veterinary
43 technician under subdivision (2) of this subsection, a licensed
44 veterinarian shall verify that such veterinary technician has met the
45 applicable qualification requirements set forth in subdivision (1) of this

46 subsection. Such licensed veterinarian shall maintain written
47 documentation that such requirements have been met and verified and
48 shall make such written documentation available for inspection by the
49 Department of Public Health, upon request.

50 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Department of Public Health

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

It is anticipated that the Department of Public Health will not incur any additional regulatory responsibilities as a result of passage of this bill. It does not require veterinary technicians meeting specified criteria to document their eligibility to perform work delegated by a veterinarian to any state agency. It is expected that any resulting increase in complaints filed with the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine can be accommodated within its normal course of work.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sHB 5684

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill permits veterinarians to delegate some of the procedures they perform to veterinary technicians. Until January 1, 2003, they may delegate to technicians who have passed a test prescribed by the Department of Public Health (DPH); after that date, these technicians must have successfully completed a program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and also passed the DPH test.

The bill prohibits veterinary technicians from diagnosing or making a prognosis; prescribing treatment, medication, or appliances; or performing surgery. A veterinarian must supervise all delegated procedures and must be on the premises when they are performed. The bill makes the veterinarian responsible for all delegated procedures and medical judgments.

Before delegating any procedures, the bill requires a veterinarian to verify that the technician has met the qualifications the bill establishes. The veterinarian must maintain written documentation to this effect and make it available if DPH asks to see it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0